

The decision by Sinclair Broadcasting to force their stations to broadcast a blatant propaganda piece in the two weeks before the election is a clear example of both the dangers of media consolidation, and of the need of FCC to again regulate the use of the public airwaves in order to avoid precisely this sort of abuse. If the FCC allows stations to run inflammatory propaganda as "news" a few days before a national election, it raises the question of whether there is any partisan political use of the public airwaves to which the current commissioners would object. This would represent a radical break with decades of bipartisan consensus regarding the need for the FCC, for the health of democracy and to comply with existing law, to regulate both the consolidation of station ownership and blatantly partisan uses of the public airwaves.